

MARIN COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NORTH MARIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION MINUTES AUGUST 26, 2003

Members Present:	Judy Arnold; Denise Athas; Mark Birnbaum; Phil Brown; Mike DiGiorgio; Max Hopkins; Sue Lattanzio; Joann London; Bernard Meyers; Cynthia Murray; John Reuscher
Members Absent:	Kenneth Harth
Staff Present:	Dean Powell, Marin County Department of Public Works; and Bonnie Nelson, Congestion Management Agency Consultant
Others:	Glen Young, City of Novato Department of Public Works; and Don Wilhelm

The meeting was convened at 4:08 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2 APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2003

M/s, London/Athas, to approve the July 28, 2003 action minutes. Motion passed unanimously (Birnbaum and Hopkins abstained).

3. PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL TRANSIT ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the Local Transit element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 40% of the sales tax revenues towards the Local Transit element; and (2) a sense of local transit needs in the community that should be given high priority in a new system.

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) the anticipated traffic impacts resulting from the Golden Gate Transit Scenario E service reductions, including impacts to Sonoma County; (2) whether any of the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios would restore Scenario E service levels to current service frequencies; (3) the need for late-night services and how many riders use these services; (4) paratransit and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary service; (5) the total percentage of children using Golden Gate Transit services beyond student riders; (6) the "Ride & Roll" students ride free program and student discount passes as an alternative consideration; (7) designing transit services to meet student needs, such as routing and bell time arrivals, and whether Golden Gate Transit has worked with schools, including local colleges, on these issues; (8) the possibility of using Local Return funds to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles; and (9) whether the expenditure plan can be structured to provide flexibility in its priorities or to sunset earlier if sales tax revenues are no longer needed for a particular expenditure later during the term of the tax. (Information on most of these topics can be found in the "Frequently Asked Questions #3" handout in the September staff report packet.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the Local Transit element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements.
- Local transit needs identified included:
 - Physical improvements to bus stops, such as bike racks, lockers, lighting, shelters, public pay phones, and access improvements, to encourage alternative modes to transit and enhance security and safety
 - Local shuttles for seniors and youth that connect to the Margaret Todd Senior Center and area schools
 - Coordination and connection of the Novato EZ Rider and Hamilton Shuttle services

- Local shuttles that serve remote areas, such as Bel Marin Keys
- Other consensus feedback included:
 - A portion of the Local Return funds should be used to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

In response to a request for additional information at last month's meeting concerning Bond Measure B approved by Novato voters in 2000, Glen Young from the City of Novato Department of Public Works provided a handout that summarized what streets are included in Measure B, an implementation schedule, and project costs. The handout demonstrates that Measure B provides only a small portion of total local street rehabilitation funding needs for Novato through Fiscal Year 2008-09.

There was a discussion on the purpose, statements, and messages of two recent editorials published in Marin Scope Newspapers (*Novato Advance*) and the *Marin Independent Journal* written by Dick Spotswood and Mike Arnold, respectively, concerning work on the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. Staff noted that the editorials would be responded to starting in September in an effort to educate the public about the draft plan and work of the committees, provide a possible schedule leading to a ballot measure, and encourage public participation in finalizing the draft plan.

Staff also noted that the October workshop with the Joint Committee has been rescheduled tentatively for October 18th. The location and the time have not been determined yet.

6. CONFIRM/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The next committee meeting is on Monday, September 22nd, at 4:00 p.m. at the Marin Community Foundation (Hangar 5, Hamilton Field). It was noted that it may be necessary to schedule a second meeting next month in order to hear the last presentation on the Local Return element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and develop, synthesize, and finalize committee recommendations for all elements.

Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.